

works of various descriptions, and sometimes of stupendous extent, these large shells of marine mollusks are of frequent occurrence. Atwater already mentions them in the first volume of the *Archæologia Americana*, published in 1820. What Squier and Davis observed in regard to sea-shells generally during their investigations in Ohio, I will recapitulate here in a few words. They found in the mounds the smaller shells already specified, namely, *Marginella*, *Oliva*, and *Natica*, as well as entire specimens or fragments of *Cassis* and *Pyrula perversa*, and also the unwrought columellæ of a large species of couch, probably *Strombus gigas*. Entire specimens of the *Pyrula perversa*, they state, frequently have been discovered outside of the mounds, in excavating at different points in the Scioto valley. They found in one of the mounds a large *Cassis*, from which the inner whorls and columella had been removed, to adapt it for use as a vessel. This specimen, eleven inches and a half in length by twenty-four in circumference at the largest part, is now in the Blackmore Museum.*

The above-mentioned marine shells, all pertaining to tropical or semi-tropical regions, occur in the United States only on the eastern shore of the peninsula of Florida (perhaps a little higher northward) and on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. From these localities, therefore, they must have found their way into the interior. Adopting, for example, Cape St. Blas, in the Mexican Gulf, and the centre of Ohio as the limits of shell-trade from south to north (an estimate probably much below reality), we find an intervening distance of nearly eight hundred English miles.

Having repeatedly alluded to large sea-shells prepared by the aborigines to serve as vessels, I will also mention that the Florida Indians, when first seen by Europeans, used such shells as drinking-cups. This we learn from the plates and descriptions contained in the "Brevis Narratio," of Jacques le Moyne de Morgues, in the second volume of DeBry's "Peregrinationes" (Francoforti ad Moenum, 1591). Plate 19 represents Indian widows who have cut off their hair in token of mourning, and scatter it over the graves of their husbands. On the graves are deposited bows and arrows, spears, and the large shells "out of which they drank."† The same shells may be seen on Plate 29, where warriors use them as drinking-cups. Plate 40, finally, illustrates the ceremonies which were performed at the death of a chieftain. The tumulus is already heaped up, and around its base arrows are stuck perpendicularly in the ground. The drinking-vessel of the deceased, a large shell, is placed on the top of the mound.‡ Though the shells are figured quite large in these plates, it is impossible to perceive to what species they

*Ancient Monuments, p. 283.

†The accompanying text runs thus: "*Ad maritorum sepulera pervenientes, capillos sub auribus præsecant, illisque per sepulera sparsis, maritorum arma & conchas ex quibus bibebant ibidem adjiciunt, in strenuorum virorum memoriam.*"

‡In the text: "*Defuncto aliquo Rege ejus Provinciæ, magna solennitate sepelitur, & ejus tumulo oraler, e quo bibere solebat, imponitur, defixis circa ipsum tumulum multis sagittis.*"